

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims to delete the text that is shown below in strikethrough text and replace those deletions with the underlined text.

1. **(currently amended)** A method of treating a subterranean zone penetrated by a well bore comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing providing an environmentally benign gelled- a gelled
and cross-linked viscous treating fluid ~~that delayingly breaks into a low viscosity fluid~~
~~comprising that comprises~~ water, a viscosity producing polymer, a boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking ~~said the~~ polymer, and a delayed cross-link delinker ~~that chelates the boron and breaks said treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid selected from the group consisting of polysuccinamide and polyaspartic acid~~; and

(b) introducing ~~said the~~ treating fluid into ~~said the~~ subterranean zone.

2. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the water is selected from the group consisting of comprises~~ fresh water and or salt water.

3. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is comprises guar, a guar derivative, a cellulose derivative ~~or a biopolymer selected from the group consisting of guar~~, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose grafted with glycidol or vinyl phosphonic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, xanthan, and or succinoglycan.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is comprises a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized polymer.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is comprises a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized guar, ~~or~~ cellulose derivative ~~polymer selected from the group consisting of~~, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, ~~and or~~ carboxymethylhydroxy-ethylcellulose.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is comprises a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized hydroxypropylguar.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.12% to about 2.5% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking ~~said the~~ polymer ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises boric acid, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, sodium diborate, ~~pentaborates a pentaborate, and minerals or a mineral~~ containing boron that release is capable of releasing the boron upon hydrolysis.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking ~~compound is agent~~ comprises boric acid.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking agent is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.0025% to about 0.1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ delayed cross-link delinker ~~is polysuccinamide comprises polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid.~~
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ delayed cross-link delinker is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.
13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~which further comprises wherein the viscous treating fluid further comprises~~ a pH adjusting compound ~~for elevating the pH of~~ ~~said treating fluid.~~
14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound ~~is selected from the group consisting of comprises~~ sodium hydroxide, ~~potassium potassium~~ hydroxide, ~~and or~~ lithium hydroxide.
15. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound ~~is comprises~~ sodium hydroxide.
16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.
17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the viscous~~ treating fluid further comprises a buffer.
18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ buffer ~~is selected from the group consisting of comprises~~ sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate,

potassium bicarbonate, sodium diacetate, potassium diacetate, sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, ~~and~~ or potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ buffer is comprises sodium carbonate.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ buffer is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 0.25% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ viscous treating fluid further comprises a surfactant ~~for, the surfactant being capable of~~ preventing the formation of emulsions between ~~said the~~ treating fluid and subterranean formation fluids.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~said the~~ surfactant ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises an alkyl sulfonates sulfonate, alkyl an alkyl aryl sulfonates such as sulfonate, a salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, alkyl an alkyl trimethylammonium chloride, branched a branched alkyl ethoxylated alcohols, alcohol, a phenol-formaldehyde nonionic resin blends, cocobetaines, dioctylsodium blend, a cocobetaine, a dioctylsodium sulfosuccinate, imidazolines an imidazoline, alpha an alpha olefin sulfonates, sulfonate, a linear alkyl ethoxylated alcohols alcohol, and trialkyl or a trialkyl benzylammonium chloride.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~said the~~ surfactant is comprises a salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~said~~ the surfactant is present in ~~said~~ the treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 0.3% by weight of ~~said~~ the water therein.

25. (currently amended) ~~An environmentally benign~~ A viscous treating fluid that delaying breaks into a low viscosity fluid comprising:

water;

a viscosity producing polymer;

a boron cross-linking agent ~~for cross-linking~~ said ~~polymer~~; and

a delayed cross-link delinker ~~that chelates the boron and breaks~~ said ~~treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid selected from the group consisting of polysuccinamide and polyaspartic acid.~~

26. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said~~ the water is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises fresh water and or salt water.

27. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said~~ the viscosity producing polymer is comprises guar, a guar derivative, a cellulose derivative ~~or a biopolymer selected from the group consisting of~~ guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose grafted with glycidol or vinyl phosphonic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, xanthan, and or succinoglycan.

28. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said~~ the viscosity producing polymer is comprises a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized polymer.

29. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer ~~is comprises~~ a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized guar or cellulose derivative ~~polymer selected from the group consisting of comprising~~ hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, ~~and or~~ carboxymethylhydroxy-ethylcellulose.

30. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer ~~is comprises~~ a substantially fully hydrated depolymerized hydroxypropylguar.

31. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ viscosity producing polymer is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.12% to about 2.5% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

32. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking ~~said the~~ polymer ~~is selected from the group consisting of comprises~~ boric acid, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, sodium diborate, ~~pentaborates a pentaborate, and minerals or a mineral containing boron that release the boron upon hydrolysis.~~

33. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking compound ~~is comprises~~ boric acid.

34. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ boron cross-linking agent is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.0025% to about 0.1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

35. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ delayed cross-link delinker ~~is polysuccinamide comprises polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid.~~

36. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ delayed cross-link delinker is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

37. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 ~~which that~~ further comprises a pH adjusting compound ~~for elevating the pH of said treating fluid.~~

38. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 37 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ~~and or~~ lithium hydroxide.

39. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 37 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound is comprises sodium hydroxide.

40. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 37 wherein ~~said the~~ pH adjusting compound is present in ~~said the~~ treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight of ~~said the~~ water therein.

41. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 ~~which that~~ further comprises a buffer.

42. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 41 wherein ~~said the~~ buffer ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, sodium diacetate, potassium diacetate, sodium

phosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium dihydrogen **phosphate phosphate, and or** potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

43. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 41 wherein **said the** buffer is **comprises** sodium carbonate.

44. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 41 wherein **said the** buffer is present in **said the** treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 0.25% by weight of **said the** water therein.

45. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein **said the** treating fluid further comprises a ~~surfactant for preventing the formation of emulsions between said treating fluid and subterranean formation fluids surfactant.~~

46. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 45 wherein **said the** surfactant is ~~selected from the group consisting of comprises an alkyl sulfonates sulfonate, alkyl an alkyl aryl sulfonates such as sulfonate, a salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, alkyl an alkyl trimethylammonium chloride, branched- a branched alkyl ethoxylated alcohols, alcohol, a phenol-formaldehyde nonionic resin blends, cocobetaines, dioctylsodium blend, a cocobetaine, a dioctylsodium sulfosuccinate, imodazolines an imodazoline, alpha an alpha olefin sulfonates, sulfonate, a linear alkyl ethoxylated alcohols alcohol, and trialkyl or a trialkyl benzylammonium chloride.~~

47. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 45 wherein **said the** surfactant is **comprises** a salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid.

48. (currently amended) The viscous treating fluid of claim 45 wherein said the surfactant is present in said the treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 0.3% by weight of said the water therein.

49. (new) A viscous treating fluid comprising a boron cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and a delayed cross-link delinker, the delayed cross-link delinker comprising polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid.

50. (new) A method of reducing the viscosity of a viscous treating fluid comprising the steps of:
providing a viscous treating fluid that comprises a boron cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and a delayed cross-link delinker, the delayed cross-link delinker comprising polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid; and

allowing the cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and the delayed cross-link delinker to interact so as to reduce the viscosity of the viscous treating fluid.

51. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein the viscous treating fluid is suitable for placing gravel packs or fracturing subterranean zones.

52. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein the boron cross-linked viscosity producing polymer is formed by cross-linking a viscosity producing polymer with a boron cross-linking agent.

53. (new) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein the boron cross-linking agent is capable of crosslinking the viscosity producing polymer.

54. (new) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein the delayed cross-link delinker is capable of chelating boron.

55. (new) The viscous treating fluid of claim 25 wherein the delayed cross-link delinker is capable of breaking the viscous treating fluid into a lower viscosity viscous treating fluid.